



UTK Library Guide to Research

#152

Genealogical Research at the Special Collections Library, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

The Tennesseana Collection of the Special Collections Library at the University of Tennessee is of interest to researchers who wish to study the genealogy of Tennessee families. This is primarily a historical collection and is not a genealogical library: that is, the Tennesseana Collection seeks to answer the question, "What makes Tennessee *Tennessee*?" Thus, the Special Collections Library's holdings include works in the political, military, social, agricultural, industrial, commercial, natural, musical, artistic, theatrical, horticultural, architectural, and literary history of Tennessee. Books by and about Tennesseans and their state tell the story of the people and the place.

Genealogical researchers, however, may find materials in the Tennesseana Collection that will assist them in their study. In particular, the many local history books for cities, towns, and counties contain much information about local families. There are also a selected number of transcriptions of some Tennessee county censuses, as well as the Works Progress Administration's Historical Records Survey volumes for various Tennessee county records.

Among the array of specific titles that may be helpful are *35,000 Tennessee Marriage Records and Bonds, 1783-1870* (F435.T35); *Early East Tennessee Marriages* (F442.1 .S57 1987); *Obituaries from Early Tennessee Newspapers, 1794-1851* (F435.O23); *Marriages from Early Tennessee Newspapers, 1794-1851* (F435.M37); *The Confederate Patriot Index* (E483.5.T42); and *Tennesseans in the Civil War* (E579.4.A53). For families with Civil War soldiers in their ancestry, various regimental histories; the W.P.A. Historical Records Survey's Civil War Records for East Tennessee (E531.H5), *The Confederate Veteran* (E482.C74), and *The War of the Rebellion...* (E464.U6) are useful, as well. And *Tennesseans in the War of 1812* (E359.5 .T4S57 1992) provides an index to records for this early conflict.

Cwy ye (Cherokee Blood Newsletter) (E99.C5C99) is very helpful to anyone with Cherokee ancestry.

Although the Library has a few published genealogies for particular families, they constitute the exception rather than the rule; these can be identified by searching OLIS' subject files under, for example, "Sevier family," or "Jones family."

There are several sources in the Manuscripts collections that might be of service to Tennessee genealogical researchers. Four groups of papers in particular are relevant: three collections of papers from Rhea County, the Norris Dam relocation project collection, the Headman papers, and several unpublished works by Snyder Roberts concerning Anderson, Loudon, Morgan, and Roane counties.

In addition to these, there is genealogical information scattered throughout the collections. Many of the collections of the papers of famous Tennesseans include their genealogies, and there are several small collections with records from various counties in East Tennessee.

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For Further Research:

The Special Collections Library encourages genealogical researchers to visit the Knoxville area libraries that specialize in genealogical materials. These are:

The McClung Historical Collection
of the Lawson McGhee Library
Clinch Avenue at Market Street
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902
phone: 544-5744

The Church of the Latter Day Saints
Genealogical Library
400 Kendall Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
phone: 693-8571

The Blount County Public Library
301 McGhee Street
Maryville, Tennessee 37801
phone: 982-0981

Special Collections Hours:

Open 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Holiday closing are posted in advance.

Telephone Information and Assistance:

Available at: (423) 974-4480

Fax at: (423) 974-0560

Location:

The west end of the Hoskins Library, Cumberland Avenue at 15th Street, on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, campus.